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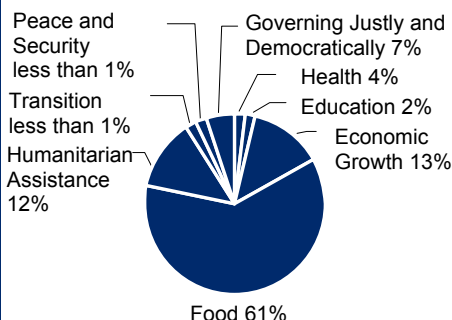
SUDAN

MONTHLY UPDATE

September 2010



USAID Assistance to Sudan FY 2009



Peace and Security	\$6.7
Governing Justly and Democratically	\$72.7
Health	\$47.1
Education	\$25.5
Economic Growth	\$140.8
Food Aid	\$679.7*
Humanitarian Assistance	\$127.6*
Transition	\$4.3
TOTAL	\$1,104.4

Note: Amounts in millions

* Includes eastern Chad



The Kit Bridge, some 100 kilometers south of Juba, collapsed August 23 after a truck accident. Temporary ramps to the replacement bridge (upper right), built with USAID funding, were quickly built to resume traffic flow. Photo: Louis Berger Group

USAID Responds Quickly to Bridge Collapse, Restoring Traffic Flow on Juba-Nimule Road

On the night of August 23, a truck accident along the Juba-Nimule road collapsed a key temporary bridge called Kit Bridge, approximately 100 kilometers south of Juba, bringing a halt to traffic along southern Sudan's major trade corridor.

USAID contractor construction teams rapidly mobilized to build up temporary ramps to the new, adjacent bridge USAID built, and by 1 p.m. on August 24, traffic flow was restored.

The collapse of the old bridge, which USAID had repaired for use while completing a new, larger and stronger bridge, was attributed to a truck that was speeding or overweight for the bridge, possibly both.

As USAID has improved the surface of the Juba-Nimule road and bridges along it, drivers have increased their speed, sometimes to unsafe levels. Road accidents have increased dramatically as a result.

USAID and the U.S. Department of State are working with local police on road safety standards and enforcement along the 192 kilometers of road that is being paved with USAID assistance.



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This temporary ramp was quickly built up to the new Kit Bridge after the old bridge collapsed on August 23, allowing traffic to resume within hours. Photo: Louis Berger Group

Once complete, the road will be the longest paved road in southern Sudan, and will reduce travel time from Juba to the Uganda border from eight hours to two and a half hours. ♦

Early Warning Systems Help Prevent Conflict in Southern Sudan

In an effort to help local communities in Jonglei and Upper Nile states better respond to and prevent violent conflict, USAID is equipping a network of early warning security posts with essential communications and transportation equipment. The early warning posts are opening up channels of communication to remote and chronically marginalized regions, and enhancing the capacity of local authorities to monitor and mitigate security threats before they can escalate into destabilizing conflict.

USAID is working to identify innovative ways to mitigate conflict in southern Sudan in the lead-up to the January 2011 referendum on southern self-determination, and following a surge in inter-communal violence that left over 2,500 people dead in 2009. The early warning posts are strategically situated along key ethnic and communal fault lines in Jonglei and Upper Nile, in areas that have experienced a disproportionate share of violence over the past year.

In May, radios, satellite phones, motorcycles, bicycles, and furniture were delivered to four early

warning posts that were built under a previous USAID program and needed equipment to become fully operational.

In June, an attempted large-scale cattle raid by Lou Nuer youth against Murle was thwarted after authorities in Akobo County used the equipment to convey advance notice to their counterparts in Pibor County. And in August, civilians relayed a report of an incursion in their village by armed men, which allowed local authorities using the early warning post equipment to coordinate a rapid response that dislodged and disarmed the group. Two additional posts were equipped in August, and plans are underway to expand into other conflict-affected areas.

The early warning posts form an integral part of USAID's support to stability in the most conflict-prone areas of southern Sudan. According to Akobo County Commissioner Goi Jooyul Yol, this support has contributed to a significant decrease in violence and a reduction of tensions in these areas. "Last year there were over 900 deaths in Akobo County due to ethnic violence, and so far this year there have been 10 deaths," Commissioner Goi stated in recent comments to a visiting USAID delegation.

"The security situation has vastly improved, and USAID's work with youth, traditional authorities, local NGOs, and local government has been a major factor in creating a more stable environment," he said. ♦



Unloading supplies for an early warning post in Lekuangle, Jonglei state. Photo: AECOM International Sudan



Workshops Inform Southern Kordofan Communities about the Popular Consultation Process



A popular consultation workshop at Dilling University in Southern Kordofan. Photo: AECOM International Sudan

USAID in August provided logistical support for a series of workshops on popular consultations, held in four locations in Southern Kordofan. This is part of USAID's effort to support implementation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and educate the populations of Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile about the popular consultation processes guaranteed to those two states in the CPA.

Attendance at the four workshops—held in Fula, Abu Jubeiha, Dilling, and Kadugli between August 19 and 23—totaled 1,475, and included government leaders and commissioners, political party leaders, representatives of local community development and women's organizations, and religious leaders.

Southern Kordofan State Speaker of the Assembly Ibrahim Balandia chaired the meetings and presented a popular consultation framework, asking participants to hold group discussions and agree on the concept. A code of conduct for the popular consultation was introduced to each audience and discussed. They also examined the Popular Consultation Act, which was passed by Sudan's National Assembly in December 2009, and discussed how popular consultations have been conducted in other countries—Kenya and Indonesia.

The CPA defines popular consultation as “a democratic right and mechanism to ascertain the

views of the people of Southern Kordofan/Nuba Mountains and Blue Nile States on the comprehensive agreement,” which shall be “subjected to the will of the people of the two States through their respective democratically elected legislatures.”

When national elections were held in Sudan in April, Southern Kordofan postponed its state legislative assembly and gubernatorial elections due to disputes over census results. The census was repeated in the state in June, but to date, the National Elections Commission has not released an official schedule for the elections. According to the CPA, popular consultations cannot take place until an elected state legislative assembly is in place. ♦

USAID Funds Food Voucher Program to Assist Sudanese Affected by Drought



In-kind food aid typically includes grain, like this sorghum being distributed in Darfur. Photo: Rebecca Dobbins/USAID

On August 31, USAID awarded its first grant for a food voucher program in Sudan, a landmark initiative that will provide beneficiaries access to life-saving foods that are available in local Sudanese markets.

Most U.S. food assistance to Sudan is in-kind food aid—food grown by farmers in the United States and purchased on the open market then shipped to Sudan.



Overall in 2010, international food assistance has targeted 6.1 million food-insecure people in Sudan, including internally displaced persons, refugees, and those affected by conflict. In fiscal year 2010, USAID provided \$404 million for 390,000 metric tons of food for Sudan (in-kind food aid).

This new food voucher program is an alternative approach that reduces the overall cost of assisting vulnerable families who cannot afford sufficient nourishment for themselves and their families. It improves beneficiaries' access to locally produced food that is already a familiar part of their diet, and it offers the added benefit of helping to boost economic activity in local markets.

This grant, awarded to the World Food Program (WFP), provides more than \$2.25 million for food vouchers to be distributed to approximately 129,000 of the most vulnerable drought-affected persons in North Kordofan and North Darfur through the end of 2010.

Beneficiaries will use the vouchers to select a minimum of three food items from approved merchants. The vouchers will range in value from SDG 20 to 50 (approximately \$8 to \$20). The actual value will be determined by the value of a WFP standard food ration, based on local prices of the basic commodities.

Food voucher programs are appropriate in areas where beneficiaries can access functioning markets, security conditions are stable, and partner organizations such as WFP are able to provide strong organization and oversight of the program.

This program is significant because it enables USAID to complement in-kind food aid with locally procured food items, enhancing the U.S. Government's ability to respond to food security emergencies effectively and appropriately under a broad range of circumstances. ♦

Community Action Group Brings Education to a Remote Village

Mabior-Atok, a remote village in Tonj North County, in Southern Sudan's Warrap state, had long lacked a school. Families had to send children to a neighboring village, if they were able to attend any school at all. But with the initiative and perseverance of community leaders, along with



Mabior-Atok primary school pupils participating in a lesson. Photo: Winrock International

support from USAID, 227 girls and boys now have the opportunity to go to school close to home.

Across Warrap, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, and Unity states, USAID has mobilized communities to form Community Action Groups (CAGs), which meet within their communities to prioritize needs and develop and implement community action plans to address those needs. Recognizing the lack of schooling for the children in their community, the Mabior-Atok CAG decided to start a primary school in town.

The Mabior-Atok CAG and other community members agreed to begin with three classes, to be held under trees in the neighborhood. Five individuals from the community volunteered to serve as teachers. CAG members encouraged parents and youth to raise awareness in the community regarding the importance of education, urging families to enroll their children in the new neighborhood school. Soon after, local students began going to school, many for the first time ever.

With USAID support, the CAG wrote a proposal to the County Department of Education requesting trained teachers and school materials such as books, blackboards, and pencils. Bol Agei, the Tonj North County Director of Education, expressed how impressed he was by the CAG's initiative, and he pledged to give the Mabior-Atok school his full support and to mobilize government teachers to the school soon.



The CAG's efforts have not only brought a school to neighborhood children, it has also provided a great example of how community members working together to address community needs can lead to big successes. BRIDGE will continue to build on this foundation with training for county education officials and forums for community-government interaction, allowing the citizens of Mabior-Atok to discuss additional needs with their government officials. ♦

Training Boosts Darfur NGOs' Ability to Better Represent Their Communities



Participants at the August training for national NGOs in Darfur. Photo: Academy for Educational Development

To help local civil society organizations in Darfur more effectively represent their communities, USAID supported a two-day community mapping and action planning workshop for 11 national nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in late August in El Fasher.

National NGOs in North Darfur commonly lack practical skills for engaging residents and community leaders in project design and implementation, contributing to a lack of trust between the NGOs and the communities they serve. As parts of Darfur transition from needing purely humanitarian assistance to being able to accommodate longer-term early recovery assistance, national NGOs will increasingly be expected to meet the needs of local communities. USAID training for national NGOs to conduct community mapping in North Darfur is helping prepare them to do that.

The workshop was the first phase of a three-phase program aimed at teaching the NGOs to design and implement projects in a more participatory manner by working directly with the communities they serve. It resulted in nine of the 11 organizations submitting proposals for grants to move on to the second and third phases, where five will be selected to receive USAID funding to implement the action plans they began to develop in the workshop. ♦

Workshop Raises Awareness about Southern Sudan's Child Rights Act

To raise awareness about the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) 2008 Child Rights Act, USAID sponsored a workshop June 3-4 in Renk County, Upper Nile state, for local government officials and community members. The workshop resulted in a four-month action plan to enhance community awareness of children's rights, and the formation of a Child Rights Act Monitoring and Implementation Committee comprised of chiefs, sheikhs, parents, and social workers.

The Department of Child Welfare in Upper Nile State's Ministry of Social Development coordinated the event by working jointly with the Renk County Department of Social Development to select participants and trainers, provide materials, and determine target audiences. As one community member noted in her remarks, the workshop was the "first time [the people of Renk County have been] given...a forum where we can talk openly with the government."

Southern Sudanese children face myriad challenges, including lack of schooling, child labor, child abuse, and child marriage. In an effort to help children overcome these challenges, the GOSS enacted the Child Rights Act of 2008, which outlines the rights of children in accordance with the interim constitution of southern Sudan, the 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and other international protocols and standards. Yet the Child Rights Act remains poorly understood in most parts of southern Sudan.

Through such support, USAID is helping to build links between government, civil society and communities in southern Sudan and the Three Areas. ♦